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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CRAIG THOMAS, a Senator from the State of Wyoming.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Dr. Stephen L. Swisher, Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer.

Let us pray.

We pray, Dear God, that You would fill this sacred minute with meaning and make it an oasis for the refreshment of our souls, a window cleaning for our vision, and a recharging of the batteries of our spirit. As this day unfolds, give us the courage to step into life with new drive and motivation.

As we gather here in this historic place, facing the stress of committee hearings, paperwork deadlines, and seemingly endless functions, may we not lose sight of our true purpose—to get the right things done and in some cases the wrong things undone.

I pray Your blessings upon each Member of this our United States Senate, their families and staff members. Surround each one with Your protection, strength, and guidance. May they feel You as close as their next breath.

Lord, we remember those who have stood here before us and we are proud—and in our minds we can visualize the sea of faces whom we represent, those multiplied millions of people looking to us to make a real, positive, significant difference—and we are emboldened. May our words offer hope and our actions inspiration. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CRAIG THOMAS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 2, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CRAIG THOMAS, a Senator from the State of Wyoming, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. THOMAS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we have 30 minutes set aside for a period of morning business. Following that 30 minutes, we will resume postcloture debate on the PATRIOT Act conference report. We had five procedural votes on or in relation to the PATRIOT Act yesterday, concluding with an 84-to-15 vote. Given that overwhelming vote, it is now time for the Senate to take a final vote on this con-

ference report. That vote is scheduled for 3 p.m. today. We will divide the time equally until that time.

After the vote on the adoption of the PATRIOT Act, we will proceed to a cloture vote on the issue of LIHEAP. I hope we can proceed to the LIHEAP bill and come to a resolution on that measure before the close of the week. In any event, I am confident we will proceed to that measure and work toward a vote on the LIHEAP issue. We will update Senators this afternoon after the two votes later today.

COMBAT METH ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I wish to make a brief comment on an important provision on methamphetamine that is in the PATRIOT Act but not a lot of attention has been focused on it over the last several days, a very important provision.

At 3 o'clock today the Senate will vote on passage of the PATRIOT Act conference report, and after a lot of months of debate we will finally deliver a PATRIOT Act that is stronger and tougher and more effective against terrorists on American soil, while at the same time protecting our civil liberties.

It has not been easy. It has taken a long time. But now we are on the verge of a tremendous success with the passage of a very important bill that will benefit the American people.

The Combat Meth Act is legislation Senator TALENT introduced last year, and I and many of our colleagues are a cosponsor of that legislation. Senator TALENT's leadership has been instrumental in pushing this bill forward, and it is something of which we can all be very proud.

I have worked with the House leadership to encourage Members to get this done because meth is a crisis that has been building in all of our States. It is highly addictive, cheap, and easily available.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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